MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

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AFTERMANIA: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE WARRIOR

I liked it. I really, really liked it. Heck, I was like a stupid kid the last four minutes when the false finishes began piling up. I can't think of a WWF match which had me on edge to this degree since Savage-Steamboat in 1987.

I have had a limited number of callers tell me in the last week they can't believe I rated that match a PINFALL! But Ultimate Warrior-Hulk Hogan played impeccably to the strengths of both men and was one of the most brilliantly choreographed matches ever in the federation.

Steve Beverly

Yes, you can replay the match a dozen times and find innumerable technical flaws in it but the key is in the construction. It was as finely crafted as a Paddy Chayevsky drama on live TV of the 1950s. It had all the suspense of that memorable Jack Nicklaus run down Amen Corner at the 1986 Masters.

In THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES, however, you will find the buy-rate for WRESTLEMANIA VI the lowest-ever, if estimates are correct. My personal view is more people probably saw this WM live or its first replay but fewer individual buys were registered. And I have some thoughts as to why:

---THE $30 PRICE: I've had a few dispute this with me but I truly feel this hurt Titan. Frankly, I think there is a psychological plateau at $19.95 for pay-per-view shows and videocassettes. I think Turner is outrageous in selling home tapes of STARRCADE at $40 a pop. For a WM, you can possibly get people to $24.95. But I heard tons of complaints from hardcore WWFers in the Northeast saying they were "carpooling" the show with friends because they couldn't justify $30 for any show. I feel Hogan-Flair would have had a hard time drawing record biz at that cost.

---SHOW LENGTH: Slightly under four hours is simply too long. It's the same factor as people balking at longer miniseries (i.e., WAR AND REMEMBRANCE) unlike 10 years ago. Even though WM was well-paced, attention spans are just too short to expect people to sit still for four hours, longer than GONE WITH THE WIND. A good three-hour to 3:15 show with 10 matches is preferable.

---CARD CLUTTER: WM6 was a smash because it delivered a main event people wanted to see in a fashion they wanted to see it, much as in the best boxing cards. And it's okay if you want to do a 10-bout card and have the other nine be strictly supporting others. But of the 13 preliminaries to Hogan-Warrior, so few of them contained dramatically personal issues that I picture a lot of refrigerator & bathroom trips and in-room conversations during them. Not only did a lot of folks forget Martel-Ware by 7:15, few people cared (even at 4:08).

Other theories have been expressed that the face vs. face main event did not catch fire as much as a Hogan-heel match would have. Yet, I believe the more any company charges for a show, the more homes will double, triple and quintuple with viewers on a single buy, thereby being a more critical factor.

Frankly, with the pay universe expected to reach at least 18 million homes by this time next year, the more prudent move from here is to keep the prices lower and register a bigger gross. You don't hurt yourself with viewers and set yourself up for better support with the lesser pay shows.

Even with the disappointing subscription rate and my humble criticisms, Titan is to be congratulating for delivering a main event of the quality the NFL wishes its Super Bowl would offer every January.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

WRESTLEMANIA VI POSTS ESTIMATED 4% BUY-RATE

TORONTO---In what has to be a major disappointment for Titan Sports, cable industry estimates are WRESTLEMANIA VI drew 4% of 13-million available pay-cable homes April 1.

The buy-in would register 520,000 homes, if estimates are correct, down 18% from last year, and gross revenues of $15.6 million.

"It has to be the $29.95 price tag," said Bart Karle, a cable industry analyst. "Even in the WWF strongholds, we have reason to believe the high cost pushed more people into gathering for viewing parties, rather than individually buying the show."

Early in the week, MATWATCH had received estimates as high as 4.8% but the 4% figure from our sources is higher than the 3.9% Titan insiders are quoting. No "official" media estimate had been offered by Titan at deadline.

FLAIR SIGNS 2-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION

ATLANTA---NWA world champion Ric Flair, ending speculation of an impending jump to Titan Sports, has agreed to a 2-year extension on his current contract.

(Continued on Page 2)

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

(Continued from Page 1)

FLAIR

The agreement was reached, according to WCW insiders, after a meeting with WCW executive vice president Jim Herd and consultant Jim Barnett last week.

No details of financial arrangements were available but Flair was expected to agree to a pact guaranteeing him less than the estimated $700,000 published reports list as his current salary.

Uncertain also is whether Flair will have the same control over the NWA title as is in his current pact. Insiders say Flair's recent refusal to drop the world belt to Lex Luger stem from his desire for a longer-term deal. The new contract guarantees his services to TBS through the end of 1993. But one source close to the negotiations told MATWATCH, "If Flair gets his extension, he'll do whatever they want."

The 40-year-old Flair has been told by WCW executives he'll have another shot at booking the group but only after he retires from the ring. Two Toronto newspapers erroneously reported last week that Flair had signed with the WWF.

ZBYSZKO REGAINS AWA BELT; TO APPEAR ON JOINT CARD

ST. PAUL----Larry Zbyszko, after a two-month hiatus, regained the AWA heavyweight championship from Mr. Saito Sunday night here.

Zbyszko, who dropped the belt in mid-February to Saito at the Tokyo Egg Dome card, will now face a challenge from Nikita Koloff.

Koloff, who defeated Zbyszko on an ESPN card three weeks ago, goes for the AWA belt on a joint NWA-AWA show in the Twin Cities area in May.

PEDICINO TO REVIVE WRESTLETHON CONCEPT

ATLANTA---PRO WRESTLING '90 and GEORGIA ALL-STAR WRESTLING chief Joe Pedicino will revive his previous WRESTLETHON charity event, possibly Memorial Day weekend.

Pedicino, who staged the shows in 1987-88 on his old WATL-TV home in Atlanta, tentatively hopes to make WRESTLETHON a weekend-long affair, including live wrestling on Friday and Saturday nights at WVEU-TV in Atlanta, followed by a Sunday non-televised event in north Georgia.

Details are only in the formative stages. The 1988 WRESTLETHON was the first live TV wrestling show in Atlanta in 19 years and raised money for Atlanta police bulletproof vests.

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RATINGS RAP

WWF SHOWS REGAIN CABLE TOP ON WRESTLEMANIA WEEKEND

Gaining momentum from the Hulk Hogan-Ultimate Warrior WRESTLEMANIA showdown, the World Wrestling Federation's two series reclaimed the top spots in the weekly cable ratings for the period ending April 2. In broadcast figures, the WWF padded its year-long lead over the NWA in syndication.

ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING, which has been near the bottom of the numbers for most of the season, captured the top spot with a 3.3 rating and 9.2 share, both top marks for the year. The ALL-AM hour on USA served as predominantly a pre-game show for WM6, giving it healthy momentum.

PRIME TIME WRESTLING finished second, though with not nearly the hot ratings many expected. PTW scored a 3.1 with a 4.5 share and had a weak followup to WM6; however, the audience levels were strong opposite the NCAA basketball finals on CBS.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, opposite the Duke-Arkansas NCAA semifinal on CBS, dropped below a 3 for the first time in more than a month, but still posted a respectable 5-plus share. But NWA MAIN EVENT, which faced no strong competition, only posted a 2.5, falling into a tie with the Friday night POWER HOUR.

In syndication, the WWF's 9.1 was not an increase over recent scores but the NWA dropped 9% over the previous week to a 6.7, indicating the softness of both syndie efforts.

CABLE

Week Ending April 2	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 4/1)	3.3	9.2	1.72 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 4/2)	3.1	4.5	1.62 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 3/31)	2.7	5.3	1.46 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 4/1)	2.5	5.3	1.35 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 3/30)	2.5	4.2	1.33 million
NWA POWER HOUR (Replay) (TBS 3/31)	1.2	8.6	648,000

SYNDICATION (Week Ending March 19)

	Rating/Stations	Last Week	Year to Date
WWF	9.1/245	9.1/246	9.6
NWA	6.7/173	7.4/173	7.7

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SCALE: PINFALL!- Must See. PILE-DRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS- Midscale.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Orient Express d. Paul Roma/Omar Atlas; Hillbilly Jim d. Black Bart; ANGLE: 1) (From S'STARS) Rhythm & Blues bash Bushwackers w. guitars; 2) Bobby Heenan claims the 31 tickets Gorilla gave him for WM were for WM4; Breakdance Young d. Barry Horowitz; Warlord d. Riki Ataki; Rick Rude d. Pez Whatley; Tito Santana d. Boris Zhukov; Hart Foundation d. Buddy Rose/Mark Ming; Dino Bravo d. Hercules. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Hercules d. Brooklyn Brawler; Orient Express d. Atlas/Roma; Roddy Piper d. Conquistador; Ronnie Garvin d. Steve Vega; Earthquake Tenta d. Tom Gorman; Santana d. Rose; INTERVIEW: Hulk Hogan/'Quake; R & B d. Young/Lou Spiccoli. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Warlord d. Ataki; Harts d. Rose/Ming; Kingfish Rhodes d. Don Stevens; Jim Duggan d. Bart; Bad News Brown d. Terry Zeller; Rick Martel d. Lupe Gomez; FEATURES: 1) Rude challenges Warrior for WWF title; 2) Jack Tunney refuses to sanction rematch between Hogan & Warrior. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: Rock & Roll Express d. Mike Sampson/G.Q. Stratus; Midnight Express d. Robbie Idol/Paul Drake; 6-MAN: Wild Samoans d. Tom Zenk/Brian Pillman/Eddie Gilbert; Rick Steiner d. Wrecking Crew Enos; RECAP: Flair-Luger WW'90 finish & Luger says Flair is desperate; ANGLE: R&R Ex destroy a Freebird "video." RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[WORLD WIDE]: (From WCW) Norman lets Abdullah the Butcher out of the "box"; (RECAP) Butch Reed-Hawk from last week; FUNK'S GRILL: Terry offers Teddy Long $50 for Mark Callous; Norm/Abby d. Stratus/Bubba Rose; DOOM d. Rick Ryder/Bob Cook; Mike Rotunda d. Jacko Victory & after, Abby wraps Lord Littlebrook in burlap bag & drags him to dressing room; Scott Steiner d. Sampson. RESTHOLD.

(USWA) - Iceman Parsons d. David Hinkle; Kerry Von Erich d. Colin Orsac; Jimmy Valiant d. B.J. Travis by DQ when Devastation runs in; Jeff Jarrett/Bill Dundee d. Stud Stable. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - [PREMIERE]: LOSER-LEAVE-GA: Mike Golden d. Mr. Atlanta; Al Knitti d. Bob Farley; Bambi d. Heavenly Starr; ANGLE: Peggy Lee Leathers says she'll beat Starr in under 2 min.; WRESTLING NEWSWIRE: NWA on "Family Feud," "Tag Team" pilot; CLASSIC: Pat McGill d. Pat Fraley; Thunder & Lightning d. Mack Waters/Jeff Reynolds; INT'L: Dump Matsumoto-Bull Nakano; Randy Rose vs. Joel Deaton double countout. Joel suspended for 4 weeks for slugging ref. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CWA/SYND.) - Jarrett d. Jeff Gaylord; (RECAP) Jerry Lawler-Chris Champion saga; Lawler d. Valiant; Dirty White Boys d. Freezer Thompson/Ken Raper; Mike Awesome d. Tim Kelly; Dundee d. James; Sweet Daddy Falcone d. Ben Jordan. RESTHOLD.

(ICW) - MEXICO: Tito Guerrero d. The Wing; Ivan & Scott Putski d. Lumberjack/Pierre; TEEN REPORT: Girl w. pimples talks about upcoming ICWs; Other winners: Russian Titans, Guererro Bros. BOMB.

(PORTLAND) - PACIFIC NW TAG TOURNEY: Juicers d. Grappler/Adams in finals; BOUNTY MATCH: Curtis Thompson d. Equalizer by DQ when Equalizer brings in garbage can; FIESTA GARDEN: Adams arm-wrestling vs. mystery man wrapped in sheet (Bill Francis) ends in brawl when a second masked man slams Adams into the table. After brawl, masked man unmasks as Billy Jack Haynes; Rip & Larry Oliver d. Al Madril/Moondog Moretti; Scotty the Body vs. Ricky Santana in progress as show ends. DRAW-PLUS.

TV TEMPO
April 9-15

(CHICAGO CHAMPIONSHIP) - [MIDWEST TAG TITLE]: Reynolds Bros. d. Tony (The Razor) DeVito/JaButa 2-3 falls to retain belts; ANGLE: JaButa wraps host Tom Cronin's suit & mouth in tape & places JaButa mask over Cronin. BOMB-PLUS.

(LPWA) - [LPWA TAG TOURNEY FINAL]: Misty Blue Simmes/Heidi Lee Morgan d. Bad, Black & Beautiful to win belts; MIXED TAG: Adrian & Linda Street d. Sheik Adnan al-Kaissie/Sheila & after, Sheik hits Sheila, knocking her into announce table. Sgt. Slaughter runs in & destroys Kaissie. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WINDY CITY) - [WINDY CITY LADIES' TITLE]: The Dazzler d. Awesome Andi Austin for belt using tights. (WC CLASSICS) 1) BATTLE ROYAL: Bam Bam Bigelow eliminates Col. DeBeers & Doug Sommers at end to win. 2) Stormy Apollo d. Tolos the Greek. BOMB-PLUS.

(AWA) - Destruction Crew d. Cobra/Frankie DeFalco; ANGLE: 1) Larry Zbyszko tells Jake Milliman he'll make Tony Leone into the same kind of star as Milliman; (From EGG DOME): [AWA TITLE]: Mr. Saito d. Larry Z for belt; 6-MAN: Russian Brute/Texas Hangmen d. Paul Diamond/Brad Rheingans/Curtis Hughes; OVER-TOP MATCH: Milliman/Leone d. Col. DeBeers/Nightstalker when 'Stalker accidentally clotheslines DeBeers over top. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SOUTHEASTERN) - Assassin/Killer Kyle d. Southern Express; "Kamala" d. Nightstalker; Mauler Mays draw vs. Gary Saxton; Richie Dye d. Ebony Austin; Superstar d. Butch Brooks; Chaz Lane d. Luke Graham Jr. by DQ when Moondog Max ran in; Jimmy G. d. Max by DQ when Max/Graham broke a board over Jimmy's stomach. Danny McCormick saves, brawls w. Max; ANGLES: 1) Max crams more dog food into host J.C. Carson's mouth; 2) Chance Myers announces his valet, Miss Dana, has "left to get a regular job," but she shows up w. Superstar. BOMB!!!

(NWA/TBS) - [WCW]: (Key Match) Eddie Gilbert d. Samu by DQ for over-top & hits Eddie w. pineapple after; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Flair/WOMAN discuss Luger & Jim Cornette says M Ex has cash flow problem & proposes leasing Bobby & Stan to her; RESTHOLD.
[POWER HOUR]: Joel Deaton d. Tommy Rich; Flair d. Robert Gibson w. leg on ropes; Other winners: Norman/Abby; WNN: Gordon Solie discusses part of May 19 CAPITOL COMBAT pay-per-view; SLUGGER: Corny makes first proposal to lease out M Ex to WOMAN. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[MAIN EVENT]: (REMATCH) Rich d. Deaton. Other matches after deadline. NO RATING OFFERED.

(WVEU/SUPERSTARS) - Samuel F. Kent receives a cherry tree as a gift to commemorate the similarity between him & George Washington.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Cachorro Mendoza/Xavier Llanes/Xavier Cruz d. Jerry Estrada/Fuerza Guererra/Gladiador Jr. 2-3 falls by DQ; King Cu/Candy/Kato Kung Lee d. Atlantis/Satanico/Angel Azteca 2-3 falls; Chicos/Pierroth Jr./Gran Markus Jr. d. Rayo de Jalisco/Lizmark/Salomon Grundy. DRAW-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Paul E. Dangerously, WRESTLING RADIO: "I assure you: Dr. Tom Prichard & I will treat the Cheetah Kid like a baby treats a diaper." 2. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "Buddy Rose will never be presented the Jesse the Body Award." 3. Jimmy Garvin, NWA: "It's not over 'til the fat lady sings. Where is your girlfriend, anyway, Lance?" 4. Samuel F. Kent, WVEU: "George (Washington) was luckier than I was. His daddy wasn't sitting in the cherry tree when he chopped it down." 5. Paul E./Caller, WR: (CALLER) "If you go to the WWF, Hulk Hogan will personally kick your a--." (PAUL E.) "Why is it every time I turn around, a world champion wants to beat me up?" 6. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "Why don't the Bushwackers go back to doing what they do best? Being garbage men in New Zealand." 7. Heenan, PTW: "I don't know why I sit here with this (Monsoon)." 8. Norman, WWW: "Abdullah is goofier than you, Tuxedo Funkhead." 9. Ventura, WWF, on Jack Tunney refusing to sanction Hogan-Warrior rematch: "That's a bunch of ga-ga, dude." 10. Sgt. Slaughter, LPWA: "I've told Adrian (Street), 'Don't kiss Sheik with your lips. Use your forearm.'"

11. Jonathan Holliday, PORTLAND: "Beetlejuice ought to go to that new center for alcohol abuse. He's walking weird. You know the police have a new charge: it's called drunk while walking. If they catch you they put you in a car and see if you can drive in a straight line. That's staggering!" 12. Holliday/Don Coss, PORTLAND: (JH) "There's a pink elephant floating over the ring." (DC) "No there isn't. If there was, Grappler would hit him with a kendo stick." 13. Scotty the Body, PORTLAND: "I know who the mystery arm-wrestler is. It's Don Owen. He needs the money too bad." 14. Brian Adams, on Francis: "Oliver, you hit rock bottom bringing out Casper the Friendly Ghost to armwrestle me." 15. Larry Zbyszko, AWA, to Jake Milliman: "I'm going to team you up with a guy who has an unblemished record---Tony Leone---he's never won a match." 16. Missy Hyatt/Jim Cornette, WCW: (MH) "Jimmy, I hope you haven't quit your day job." (JC) "I haven't had a day job since I was 9 years old, selling lemonade in front of the mansion." 17. Chris Cruise/ Terry Funk, WWW: (TF) "We're going to see Paul Ellering against Teddy Long at the Omni." (CC) "Kinda like watching me against you, Terry." 18. Larry Z, AWA: "I don't care how many millions of Japanese hate my guts. The Americans already do." 19. Reggie B. Fine, USWA: "Marc (Lowrance), you're just a punkslapped homebody." 20. Lex Luger, WWW: "Ric Flair, I've been the predator. You've been the prey for too long."

21. Funk, WWW: "Crispy, I'd invite you along to Warsaw MO on a turkey hunt because I'd have the biggest turkey around." 22. Funk, WWW: "Don't commit any felonies. Don't wind up in jail. Go ahead and wear your drawers for 30 days."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: "Brain, did you feel like Chicken Little at Wrestlemania?" 2. Ventura, WWF: "Is that where Rhodes discovered Sapphire? When he was a plumber?"

TASTELESS QUESTION - Col. DeBeers, AWA, to Nightstalker: "You didn't commit a crime in Tallahassee that Ted Bundy was convicted of, did you?"

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Larry Z, AWA: "I didn't go to Tokyo to do none of this Hulk Hogan steroid clown cartoon stuff." 2. Austin Idol, WR: "It's a known fact in the Northeast that Vince McMahon & the WWF have been on their hands & knees BEGGING me to come up here because I'm the only guy who can pin Hulk Hogan 1-2-3." 3. Ventura, WWF: "I could have done a personality profile on Hacksaw Jim Duggan in 2 lines." 4. Eddie Gilbert, WCW, to Corny: "I hope you're not blaming me because your career's going downhill." 5. Larry Z, AWA, on beating Saito: "It's 100% complete happiness. Like when your ex-wife and your boyfriend get in a car wreck & die."

FANTASY AWARD - Holliday, PORTLAND: "Lex Luger backed down from Brian Adams because he knew he couldn't handle him."

NICKNAME OF THE WEEK - THE SUGAR BOOGER (Funk on T. Long).

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Misty Blue Simmes, LPWA: "...the bigger they are, the harder they fall."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - LPWA, crowd audio overrode Ken Resnick during much of LPWA tag title match.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. WWW, for Columbus/Atlanta inserts where Cruise pitches to Ole Anderson threat against Sting & Jimmy Garvin Omni plug appears. 2. PRO WRESTLING '90, Bull TAKANO, instead of NAKANO. 3. Funk, WWW: Mike ROTUNDAL.

BOO AWARDS - 1. AWA, for DeBeers' Ted Bundy question. 2. Toronto newspapers, for saying Ric Flair was at the Skydome at WM6 and actually signed with Titan. 3. WWF, for failing to grant GEORGE MICHAEL SPORTS MACHINE an okay to show stills of WM6 finale. If we knew the finish, why not? 4. WCW, for failing to promote Philadelphia show in Philly TV inserts.

TUBE TALK

Relatively lackluster week of TV with the PORTLAND show and actually the Jake Milliman stuff on AWA some of the more entertaining elements....NWA WORLD WIDE will offer title matches on every May show....WWF talking Intercontinental tourney, some saying possibly even for SUMMER SLAM (I hope not)....NBC's GEORGE MICHAEL SPORTS MACHINE ticked because of restrictions from Titan Sports over showing clips of WM6 finale....WORLD WIDE topped Feb. Nielsens in Jackson TN with a 6 rating/27 share. WWF airs on weak indie.

That Col. DeBeers question of Nightstalker....Steve Keirn will probably will work a TV date for PRO WRESTLING '90.... Expect Wendell Cooley & Frankie Lancaster in with PW'90's Georgia portion as The Heartbreakers....Still no word on a new date for the CONNIE CHUNG/NWA piece. The NWA guys will probably be on FAMILY FEUD before the news piece airs....This will be the week things are decided on the NWA announcing front as Tony Schiavone arrives....Titan does own the U.S. video rights to the Japan show this Friday, so we'll probably see a major cassette push for it....This Saturday will be the 3-hour special on WCW from 6:05-9:05 p.m.....Next week in MATWATCH: we'll be reviewing the March monthly rating averages and also, be looking at an offbeat aspect of wrestling on the tube: the respective TV wrestling theme songs. FSB.

YOU SAID IT!!!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a sampling of telephone comments on WM6: our informal phone poll drew 166 callers with 82% positive, 9% negative and 9% so-so or uncertain.)

"Fabulous, fabulous match. The rest of the card was a real dog...but boy, the crowd popped for Hogan-Warrior. I thought it was fabulous. I predicted Warrior but I let somebody talk me into a double countout but I feel vindicated."

---KIMBERLY MURPHY, PRO WRESTLING TALK, Baltimore

"Thumbs up. Excellent card. It was really a great main event."

---MIKE STACK, Somerville NJ

"Well, we see who has the guts to change a championship. Why couldn't the NWA have done this February 25?"

---ART CARLISLE, Jacksonville AR

"Probably THE best WRESTLEMANIA ever. The only thing the Warrior-Hogan match didn't have was juice that would have made it better....I mean, the match had a number of near-finishes and a really exciting (real) finish and, definitely, a surprising match considering the two participants. So, definitely a thumbs up. I couldn't believe those guys could work like that."

---RIC CARTER, Las Vegas

"If anybody had told me the best match of the day would have been Hogan-Warrior, I would have laughed. And it really wasn't as good a match as it was booked, but I was still counting the fall just like when I was a kid.

---ED MOORE, Houston TX

"I've had a dozen people tell me what a great show and a great match it was and I'm still not convinced. It was not even a good wrestling match and did you see how many moves the Warrior missed? Vince fooled a lot of people again but I'm not surprised."

---MARK BRONSON, Allentown PA

"I heard who won but I didn't buy it. I'm not spending $29.95 on anybody's pay-per-view show any time. I'll just continue my own personal boycott until these shows get a little more reasonable."

---BUD WILLIS, Trenton NJ

"If there's any doubt who knows how to captivate the public, this should have erased it. All you have to do is listen to the people at my office and my neighborhood who saw the show and hear how many people who don't care how bad the rest of the show was: all they're talking about is Hogan losing the belt. Are you listening, Ric Flair? Are you listening, Jim Herd?

---MIKE MORRIS, Orlando FL

"Watched the show closed-circuit at the Miami Arena. About 2,000-2,500 folks. They were all spread out around a 15,000-seat venue. I really thought it was a lackluster show except for the main event and, boy, did that wake me up and restore my faith that things can happen in pro wrestling. I literally got up off my chair, leapt to my feet when Hogan missed the legdrop and screamed the one-two-three when Warrior made the pin. The last time I got that involved in wrestling was in the late '70s when Zbyszko hit Bruno with a chair. It's a long time to wait between getting that excited. So, I have to give the main event a definite A+."

---CHARLIE MATTOS, WNWS Radio, Miami

(The remainder of YOU SAID IT! is from subscriber mail of the past weeks.)

About the NWA: why so many injuries? Is it possible drugs are involved? Back in the '70s and to the mid-80s, there were very little injuries. Why such a rash of them only in the NWA? The WWF has many more wrestlers but less injuries.

JEFF SUREFF
PIKES MD

(FSB: Jeff, I'll get to your other questions in future issues. But the problem is the heavier workrate in the NWA. I don't think there's a direct connection between drugs and the rash of NWA ailments. I don't know that we can give a correlation to the injury rate in the '70s with all the regional NWA groups but, remember, restholds were more prevalent in that NWA era, which perhaps protected some hurts.)

I applaud MATWATCH's Page 1 coverage of the tragic Billy Graham story. As was stated in the article, this is probably just one of similar horror stories forthcoming in the '90s. But I'm disturbed by a statement in the article. You are informing the public of Graham's self-destruction by steroid abuse. Out of left field comes three superfluous statements on Graham's unsuccessful WWF announcing gig. Don't trivialize a serious issue like steroid abuse with silly remarks regarding color commentary.

STEVE GENNARELLI
PORT ST. LUCIE FL

(FSB: Steve, under the circumstances, you were probably right. But isn't it strange Vince McMahon now wants Graham as a commentator since the steroid revelations are out?)

The departure of Tony Schiavone is welcome news. The departure of Chris Cruise is not. As you so aptly pointed out, Tony did not enter the field as a silver-tongued authoritarian, nor did Cruise. I believe, however, Chris developed at a much faster pace than did Tony. To the point, in my opinion, that he and Lance Russell now share parity as announcers right behind Jim Ross. Chris' absence will not prove a plus for the organization...while problems in promotion and presentation are seemingly ignored, it's time for the WCW folks to recall that old adage: IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT!

FREDDIE FARGO
DALLAS TX

CONTRACT CHAT: Jim Cornette & the Midnight Express are expected to sign their new deal with the NWA but still had not at week's end. Paul E. Dangerously has also not had his negotiation and as of midweek, Scott Steiner was still unsigned to a 1990 deal.

TAYLOR OUT: Terry Taylor definitely gone from the WWF but the NWA can't even talk to him until after his WWF pact expires in July.

GOODHART'S GREATS: Joel Goodhart's show in Philly drew 2,181 March 31, headed by Paul Orndorff's third win in three nights over Austin Idol, thanks to Paul E. clobbering Idol by accident with the phone. Idol then clamped the figure-4 on Paul, who swung the phone at everybody, including PRO WRESTLING TALK's Kimberly Murphy. Goodie has return cards upcoming June 9 in Philly and June 10 in Newark.

NO CIRCUITS: WWF has virtually thrown in the towel on closed circuit for future WRESTLEMANIAs after disastrous showings even in Canada. That turnout in Miami of 2,000-plus was one of the better ones reported.

FLORIDA FLIGHTS: Buddy Landell already gone from Florida and reportedly wants to work a show or two for GEORGIA ALL-STAR. But Robert Fuller was in and defeated Steve Keirn by a DQ at the Sportatorium Friday night.

CASH OR NO CASH: A top PWF executive told us last week the reported infusion of $2.5 million from a public stock offering for the promotion would be finalized this week. But I'm told by others that same promise has been made since December.

WAYNE'S WORLD: If the stock plan is legit, Mike Graham would still be the top stockholder of FCW with the public shareholders owning 31%. But general manager Wayne Coulter's share would drop to 5% and Coulter will probably leave.

HOT DRAW IN KNOXVILLE: The NWA crew drew 5,100 in a 5,600-seat building in Knoxville March 31, headed by a Flair over Luger finish and a DOOM win over Hawk & Tommy Rich. No definitive word on why Animal didn't show but I can imagine how the Knoxvillians felt about Tommy as a Road Warrior.

NWA-AWA SHOW: There is only one reason I can figure why the NWA is doing this combined card with the AWA in St. Paul in May. That's to test the market. It does not really benefit them, in my view, otherwise. Talks with Verne Gagne for a co-venture had been ongoing for a while but about four weeks ago, Verne had pulled out. Any thoughts on how this one will turn out, considering Verne's track record on joint efforts?

LEX & BIG: Lots of Lex Luger-Bam Bam Bigelow matches around the horn after last Sunday's Scott Steiner-Bigelow clash at the Omni. But I wonder how they'll build them, considering Bigelow won't be on TV for a couple of weeks.

DENVER DETAILS: Ricky Rice goes against Golden Boy Sawyer in the topliner for Rocky Mountain Wrestling April 19 at Mammoth Events Center in Denver. Randy Rhodes also goes against Barry Orton on the card. The good folks at RMWA are about to market a new board game called VOODOO WRESTLING.

CRISPY'S CRUISING: Rather lonely days for Chris Cruise, who's handling ring announcing on the road for WCW. He's been traveled as many as 15 straight days and is under orders not to travel with or socialize with the wrestlers after the shows. No real known reason why. Chris has been given the host's role of the international version of POWER HOUR but no one knows if that's a crumb after he loses the WWW slot.

CAGY CAGERS?: I'm still getting mixed stories on whether the Flair-Luger Washington match May 19 will be in a cage. But since the cage matches are already going around the horn, I would bet not. As a sidelight, the 550-pound English performer Haystacks only had about a 3-day stay and is already gone from the NWA camp.

NO TASTE: I can't let this go without comment. Col. DeBeers' question to Nightstalker on last week's AWA show concerning Ted Bundy (see TV TEMPO) was about as classless as I have heard. I don't imagine it was the least bit funny to women in the Tallahassee FL area or any area where murders of women have terrorized a community. It's easy to pass it off as, "That's wrestling," but Gagne should have had the foresight to have it edited.

A PERFECT RUDE: Expect Curt Hennig to get another run at the WWF belt, along with Rick Rude. The one advantage to Warrior with the title is that maybe they'll put a few more guys in against him with quality wrestling ability.

CANCELLED: Don't know how much life the comedy SOUTHEASTERN group has. It canceled a March 31 Cleveland TN card.

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